

Methods for the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research & Policy (Bowen) Bi-weekly Bill Brief (B4)

Objective: To provide stakeholders with an update on legislative initiatives relating to Hoosier health, especially those initiatives with direct implications for the health workforce in a document entitled the “Bowen Bi-weekly Bill Brief (B4).”

Disclosures before Analysis

The purpose of this document is not to make any type of recommendation in support or opposition of any policy initiative. Rather, the intent of the B4 is to provide a summary of policies in an organized, digestible, objective format to inform stakeholders of relevant policies/initiatives.

Review of Introduced Legislation

At the beginning of Indiana’s 2019 legislative session, Bowen Center research staff identified health-related legislation by reviewing bill titles and digests for health-related topics.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Only those bills deemed to have a direct impact on health were included in the B4. Bills with an indirect or secondary impact to health were excluded, along with any bill whose primary intent changed significantly since the bill’s initial introduction (ex: vehicle bills). Bills with a specific and direct implications for the health workforce were distinguished separately on the spreadsheet.

Results are provided in Figure 1. In total, there were 177 bills identified with a direct impact on health. Of those, 46 bills were determined to have direct implications for the health workforce (referred to hereafter as “health workforce bills”).

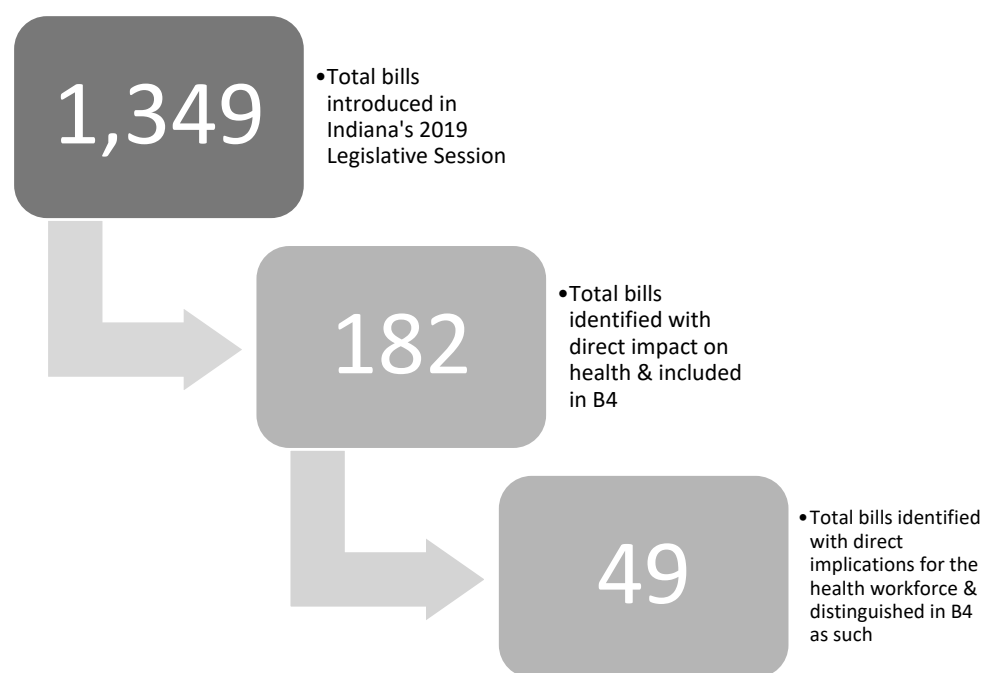


Figure 1

Reporting: Mechanism & Frequency

A spreadsheet was created which included the following information on all included bills: Step in the Legislative Process, Topical Area, Bill Number, Author(s)/Sponsor(s), Bill Title, Digest, and Date of Last Action. This spreadsheet was updated bi-weekly and disseminated through an email platform every other Tuesday.

After the first half of the legislative session concluded, many of the original bills from the spreadsheet were defeated. As such, health workforce bills that were still alive were highlighted in a summary graphic entitled the “Health Workforce Policy Barometer.” The barometer demonstrated each bill’s progress in the legislative process. The barometer was included in the bi-weekly dissemination beginning late February 2019 and was/will be updated bi-weekly throughout the remainder of the session.

When the barometer was created, sub-categories were assigned to the health workforce bills. Categories were assigned as follows:

- *Licensure/Regulation*: This category applies to any initiative that seeks to alter current occupational regulation laws.
 - o Compacts: relating to licensure compacts
 - o Sunrise/Emerging Professions: introduction of new regulation for a previously unregulated occupation
 - o Scope of Practice: any change in activities permitted under a level of regulation
 - o Other: Any initiative impacting occupational regulation that does not fall in the aforementioned sub-categories (may include changes in: educational requirements, supervision, clinical experience, titling, etc.)
- *Delivery-related Policies*: This category applies to any initiative that impacts delivery (not including scope of practice, which falls under “occupational regulation”).
 - o Reimbursement: proposals directly related to reimbursement for a service or occupation
 - o Behavioral Health/Infant mortality-related: any initiative related to these top health issues in Indiana that doesn’t fall under other categories
 - o Other: Any initiative impacting delivery that does not fall in the aforementioned categories
- *Recruitment/Retention*: This category applies to any initiative with a direct intention to recruit or retain health professionals.
 - o Loan Repayment: Initiatives related to loan repayment or covering educational costs

Health Workforce Bills were assigned to the categories as follows:

- *Licensure/Regulation*:
 - o Compacts: SB 436, SB 510, HB 1344
 - o Sunrise/Emerging Professions: SB 108, SB 291, SB 515, SB 612, HB 1131, HB 1180, HB 1252, HB 1657
 - o Scope of Practice: SB 343, SB 394, SB 586, HB 1097, HB 1197, HB 1248, HB 1259, HB 1464, HB 1652
 - o Other: SB 141, SB 153, SB 268, SB 527, SB 622, HB 1175, HB 1199, HB 1229, HB 1269
- *Delivery-related Policies*:
 - o Reimbursement: SB 416, SB 498, HB 1542
 - o Behavioral Health/Infant mortality-related: SB 117, SB 146, SB 278, SB 310, SB 378, HB 1007, HB 1200
 - o Other: SB 26, SB 201, SB 203, SB 228, SB 429, HB 1357
- *Recruitment/Retention*:
 - o Loan Repayment: SB 188, SB 217, SB 249, HB 1218

The B4 and barometer will be disseminated bi-weekly until the conclusion of the legislative session.